

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 AID-05 OMB-01

NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12

/085 W

----- 005791

R 030933Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 340

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, RP

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINE PUBLIC INFORMED THAT JIDDA TALKS WITH MNLF
UNPRODUCTIVE

REF: MANILA 1282

1. PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHES ON JANUARY 29 AND FEBRUARY 2 HAVE
FINALLY MADE IT CLEAR TO PHILIPPINE PUBLIC THAT JIDDA TALKS
WITH MUSLIM REBELS WERE UNPRODUCTIVE. ON JAN 29 PRESIDENT
STATED FLATLY THAT MUSLIM REBELS HAD LAUNCHED RECENT ATTACKS
(REFTEL) IN ORDER TO "SABOTAGE" TALKS AS WELL AS TO HELP
ATTAIN UNACCEPTABLE GOAL OF SECESSION. HE REPEATED
THIS LINE IN FEB. 2 SPEECH BEFORE MASS GATHERING OF CITIZENS'
COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES, ADDING THAT THE REBELS SEEMED TO
POSSESS MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS THAN PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES
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(INCLUDING

MORTARS, MINES AND .50 CAL. MG'S) AND IMPLYING THAT THESE MUST BE SUPPLIED "FROM OUTSIDE."

2. PRESIDENT'S DISCUSSION OF MILITARY SETBACKS WAS ONCE AGAIN HIGHLY EMOTIONAL. NON-REBEL MUSLIMS IN MANILA WERE DISTURBED BY HIS AD-LIB REFERENCES TO STRENGTHENING HOME DEFENSE CAPABILITIES IN THE SOUTH, WHICH THEY AUTOMATICALLY INTERPRETED TO MEAN PROVIDING MORE ARMS TO CHRISTIAN IRREGULARS.

3. LOCAL PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED TOUGH SPEECH BY DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE BEFORE MILITARY GATHERING ON FEBRUARY 1 IN WHICH HE SAID RECENT REBEL ATTACKS PROVED GOVERNMENT AMNESTY POLICY HAD BEEN "SADLY MISUNDERSTOOD" AS SIGN OF WEAKNESS, ADDING THAT TIME HAS COME WHEN LAWLESS PERPETRATORS OF VIOLENCE "MUST BE HELD TO ACCOUNT."

4. COMMENT: AS REPORTED BY LOCAL PRESS, MARCOS REFERENCES TO "OUTSIDE HELP" FOR REBELS IN FEB. 2 SPEECH WAS VAGUE AND (CONTRARY TO SOME WIRE SERVICE COVERAGE) HE DID NOT APPEAR TO SINGLE OUT MALAYSIANS, LIBYANS, OR ANYONE ELSE FOR BLAME. (AS USUAL, AUTHORATIVE TEXT OF SPEECH NOT AVAILABLE.) ONLY BRIGHT SPOT WAS PRESIDENT'S REPETITION THAT GOP IS WILLING TO KEEP ON TALKING WITH REBELS DESPITE RECENT DISAPPOINTMENTS AT NEGOTIATION TABLE.

5. AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH MELCHOR REPORTED SEPTTEL.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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